AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An ink for ink jet recording, comprising an aqueous medium and a magenta dye dissolved or dispersed in the aqueous medium, the magenta dye being selected from azo dyes,

wherein the magenta dye has an absorption maximum in a spectral range of from 500 to 580 nm in the aqueous medium and an oxidation potential of more positive than 1.0 V (vs SCE).

2. (original): The ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1, wherein the azo dye has a chromophore represented by the following formula: (heterocyclic ring A) -N=N- (heterocyclic ring B) wherein, the heterocyclic ring A and the heterocyclic ring B may be a same structure.

3. (previously presented): The ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1,

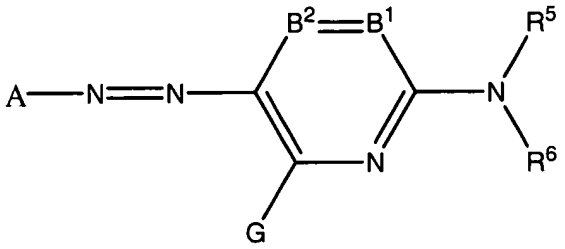
wherein the azo dye contains an azo group having an aromatic nitrogen-containing 6-membered heterocyclic ring that is directly connected to at least one end of the azo group as a coupling component.

4. (previously presented): The ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1, wherein the azo dye has one of an aromatic cyclic amino group and a heterocyclic amino group-containing structure as an auxochrome.

5. (previously presented): The ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1, wherein the azo dye has a stereostructure.

6. (previously presented): The ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1, wherein the azo dye is a dye represented by the following formula (1):

Formula (1)



wherein A represents a 5-membered heterocyclic ring group; B^1 and B^2 each represents $=CR^1-$ or $-CR^2=$ or one of B^1 and B^2 represents a nitrogen atom while other represents $=CR^1-$ or $-CR^2=$; R^5 and R^6 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent which is an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic ring, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group, a hydrogen atom of the substituent may be substituted; G, R^1 and R^2 each independently represents a hydrogen

7. (previously presented): The ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1,

wherein the ink has an ozone fading rate constant of a recorded image, the ozone fading rate constant is 5.0×10^{-2} [hr^{-1}] or less.

8. (previously presented): The ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1, which has a viscosity of from 1 to 20 mPa·sec at 25°C.

9. (previously presented): The ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1, which has a static surface tension of from 25 to 50 mN/m at 25°C.

10. (previously presented): The ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1, which has an electrical conductance of from 0.01 to 10 S/m.

11. (previously presented): The ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1,

wherein a change of a viscosity and a surface tension of the ink from at 25°C to at 10°C are 250% or less and 130% or less, respectively.

12. (previously presented): The ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1,

wherein the ink has no visibly detectable bleeding on an image-receiving material at a visible distance, the image-receiving material comprises an image-receiving layer on a support, and the image-receiving layer contains a white inorganic pigment particle.

13. (previously presented): The ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1,

which has no visibly detectable bleeding on an image-receiving material at a visible distance, the image-receiving material comprising a gelatin-containing hardened layer as an image-recording layer.

14. (currently amended): A method for producing the ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1,

which comprises a step of dissolving or dispersing the azo dye ~~according to any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ in the aqueous medium with an ultrasonic agitation.

15. (currently amended): A method for producing the ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1,

which comprises steps of: filtering the aqueous medium having the azo dye ~~according to any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ dissolved or dispersed in the aqueous medium through a filter having an effective pore diameter of 1 μm or less; and defoaming the filtered aqueous medium.

16. (previously presented): An ink jet recording method using the ink for ink jet recording according to Claim 1.

17. (previously presented): The ink jet recording method according to Claim 16,

wherein an ink droplet is ejected onto an image-receiving material in accordance with a recording signal so that an image is recorded on the image-receiving material by using the ink for ink jet recording ~~according to any one of Claims 1 to 13~~, the image-receiving material comprising an image-receiving layer on a support, the image-receiving layer containing a white inorganic pigment particle.

18. (original): The ink jet recording method according to Claim 17,

wherein the image-receiving layer contains the white inorganic pigment particle and at least one aqueous binder selected from a polyvinyl alcohol, a silanol-modified polyvinyl alcohol, a starch, a cationated starch, a gelatin, a carboxyalkyl cellulose, a casein and a polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

19. (original): The ink jet recording method according to Claim 18, wherein the image-receiving layer further contains a mordant selected from a polyaluminum chloride, a chromium compound and an azo dye-mordanting group-containing polymer.